

is not *Lanius cristatus* Lin. (*Otomela cristata* Bp.), but a nearly allied species, viz., *Phoncus brachyurus* of Pallas, the oldest name of *Lanius bucephalus* Temm. & Schleg. (Fauna Japonica), as I have pointed out in Cabanis's 'Journal für Ornithologie' (1876, p. 215). The occurrence of this Japanese Shrike in Wrangel Island is of great interest. In a little account of this bird (Journ. f. Orn., 1881, Meeting of the Germ. Ornith. Soc. of Febr.) I have referred to the specific differences between *Otomela cristata* and *Phoncus brachyurus*. The Gray Shrike noted by Nelson and named *Lanius borealis* Vieill. (p. 67), I suppose to be not this bird, but probably *Lanius major* of Pallas. The great gray *Lanius*, which has been collected by Dr. A. Krause, near the mouth of the Chilcat, Alaska, now in the Berlin Museum, which has been described, too, by Dr. Hartlaub as *L. borealis* (J. f. O., 1883, p. 270) is certainly *L. major* Pall. Professor Cabanis has confirmed my opinion (cf. J. f. O., Meeting Germ. Ornith. Soc., March, 1881).—HERMAN SHALOW, M. G. O. S., Berlin.

Probable Breeding of the Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra americana*) in Central Maryland.—May 23, 1884, Mr. George Marshall shot two Crossbills, a male and female, from a flock of five, near Laurel, Maryland. The female showed unmistakable evidence of having recently incubated. Two days afterward another male was shot in the same locality. The three specimens are now in the National Museum collection, two of them having been mounted for the exhibition series. Their measurements are as follows:

Mus. Register and No.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Culm.	Depth of Bill.	Gonys.	Tars.	M.t.
97967	♂ ad.	Laurel, Md.	May 25, '84.	3.60	2.30	.68	.40	.50	.67	.60
97972	♂ ad.	" "	" 23, "	3.60	2.25	.65	.40	.45	.65	.60
97968	♀ ad.	" "	" 23, "	3.40	2.00	.65	.40	.41	.65	.50

From their dimensions they would therefore be referable to *americana* proper, although representing about the maximum of size in this form. (See Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, Vol. II, pp. 101-107.)

This species probably sometimes breeds in various portions of the State of Maryland. In fact, I have been assured by Mr. A. Wölle, an experienced and reliable collector and bird-fancier of Baltimore, that he had, on several occasions, found the nest of this species in the immediate vicinity of that city.—R. RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

The Probable Breeding-place of *Passerculus princeps*.—The National Museum possesses a considerable series of eggs labeled "*Passerculus savana*, Sable Island, Nova Scotia, July. 1862; J. P. Dodd," which are uniformly so much larger than those of the Savannah Sparrow as to strongly suggest the probability that they may be in reality those of the

Ipswich Sparrow. At any rate, the matter is worth investigating, and it is hoped that some reader of 'The Auk' may be able to decide the question.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

Calamospiza bicolor in Southern California.—About the middle of April of the last spring, I saw an individual (male) of this species within a quarter of a mile of San Diego Bay, singing by the roadside. Early in May they were first observed in large flocks on the mesa within a few miles of the Mexican line, both males and females. At present writing, May 25, they are everywhere abundant on the mesas, and apparently breeding. Mr. L. Belding tells me he has met with the bird in Lower California during his explorations there. I have never met with it before in California, nor have I heard of its occurrence here in past years. Do I record a new area of its distribution?—GODFREY HOLTERHOFF, *National City, Cal.*

Egg of the Cowbird in Nest of the Carolina Dove.—Mr. E. H. King of West Liberty, Iowa, writes me to this effect, adding that the Dove is the largest bird he has known to be chosen as the Cowbird's foster-parent.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Xanthocephalus icterocephalus in Chester County, South Carolina. — Sometime since a friend informed me that there was to be seen in one of the stores of this place a curious and unknown bird, which was exciting considerable comment. In this *rara avis* I expected to find, as has frequently been the case heretofore, the Rose-breasted Song Grosbeak, or some other of the smaller and more brilliantly colored birds, which usually escape general observation. In consequence, I was not a little surprised to find a large Blackbird, with a yellow head, neck, and fore-breast, and a conspicuous white wing-patch, which I recognized at once as the Yellow-headed Swamp Blackbird of the western prairies. The circumstances of the capture are as follows: On the morning of April 17, 1884, a gentleman of the town noticed it in his stable-yard, just back of the principal business street. Here it remained all day, being very tame, and letting him walk up within fifteen or twenty steps, then "running off like a chicken." At night it disappeared, but the next morning, the 18th, it returned and was caught about ten or eleven o'clock in a trap. The presence of this wanderer, in a locality so remote from its usual habitat, is not improbably due to the heavy southwest gales we had been having for some time back.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

The Turkey Buzzard in Western New York.—A Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) was shot at Kendall Mills, ten miles northwest of this town, May 23, 1884, by a farmer named George Hoffman. He saw the bird sitting on the top of a dead tree near where he was at work, and by a well-directed shot with his rifle brought it to the ground. The bird was purchased by Mr. D. T. Bruce, a taxidermist of Brockport, and is now in his collection. The specimen was recorded by Mr. Bruce in the 'Brockport Republic' of May 29, 1884; but the occurrence seems worthy of a more accessible and permanent record.—J. T. FRASER, *Brockport, N. Y.*